

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kerry Sisselman on December 23, 2008.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Abstract

A method and an arrangement for testing digital protective circuits in which data processing means means parameters are used to simulate a power supply network by outputting digital current and voltage signals in cycles. Corresponding current and voltages are generated from these signals and supplied to a protective circuit to be tested. To test protective circuits under conditions that are as close to reality as possible with a method of this type, using a comparatively simple data processing system design, the output digital current and voltage signals are first buffered consecutively when the test of a protective circuit begins. Upon reaching a specific quantity of buffered signals, the oldest buffered signals in each case are output in cycles, and more recent output signals are

buffered. Upon the occurrence of a tripping signal, output continues in cycles, and data processing ~~means~~ parameters output and buffer network-specific digital current and voltage signals,

In claim 13, line 1, replace 11 with 12.

In claim 14, line 1, replace 11 with 12.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 8-14 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest, in combination of the rest of the claims:

a method for testing a digital protective circuit having the steps of supplying the corresponding currents and voltages to the protective circuit; detecting tripping signals from the protective circuit; upon an occurrence of a tripping signal, outputting by the data processor network error-specific digital current and voltage signals while the oldest ones of the digital current and voltage signals continue to be output in cycles; and buffering the output network error-specific digital current and voltage signals, as recited in the independent claim 8;

an arrangement for testing a digital protective circuit having a converter unit located downstream from the data processing system, the converter unit to generate corresponding currents and voltages from the output oldest ones of the digital current and voltage signals and to supply the corresponding currents and voltages to the protected circuit; and a sensing arrangement assigned to the

protective circuit, the sensing arrangement triggering the data processing arrangement to output network error- specific digital current and voltage signal from the protective circuit, as recited in the independent claim 12.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vincent Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2234. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. F. Gutiérrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vincent Q. Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2831

December 22, 2008